

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ISLAMA 01791 190858Z

15

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 /051 W

----- 018344

O 190813Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4202

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 1791

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PK, US

SUBJECT: BHUTTO MENTIONS AMBASSADOR IN PRESS INTERVIEW

1. IN A LONG INTERVIEW IN LAHORE ON JANUARY 29 WITH DR. AMIN-ABOUL ENEIN, EDITOR, EGYPTIAN GAZETTE AND EGYPTIAN MAIL, WHICH WAS CARRIED IN TODAY'S PRESS, BHUTTO MADE A BRIEF REFERENCE TO AMBASSADOR BYROADE. SEVERAL URDU PAPERS GAVE REFERENCE PROMINENT COVERAGE. EXCHANGE WAS AS FOLLOWS:

2. BHUTTO (CONCLUDING PORTION OF A LONG COMMENT ON THE ROLE OF THE OPPOSITION IN PAKISTAN):

"MY FAULT AND CRIME IS THAT I HAVE NOT BEEN AS STRONG AS SOME OTHERS IN DEALING WITH THE OPPOSITION. I HAVE DEALT WITH THEM PHILOSOPHICALLY, IN A SPIRIT OF TOLERANCE. LOOKING AT THE CONDITIONS IN ASIA, LOOKING AT THE CONDITIONS OF OUR COUNTRY, SURROUNDED AS WE ARE BY HOSTILE FORCES, AND KNOWING THE WEAKNESSES OF PEOPLE AND OF POLITICIANS--I AM A POLITICAL BEING MYSELF--SEEING HOW EASILY THEY RUN TO FOREIGN EMBASSIES AND ASK FOR HELP--CONSIDERING ALL THIS, YOU WILL HAVE TO GIVE ME SOME CREDIT FOR MY ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE OPPOSITION.

"THERE WAS A BY-ELECTION IN LAHORE. DO YOU KNOW WHAT GENTLEMAN WHO WAS CONTESTING THE BY-ELECTION DID?"

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 ISLAMA 01791 190858Z

(REFERENCE IS, OF COURSE, TO GHULAM MUSTAFA KHAR, WHO

HAD JUST BROKEN WITH BHUTTO.)

3. "EDITOR: NO, WHAT DID HE DO?"

4. BHUTTO: "HE PHONED THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR DURING THE ELECTION. HE SAID: 'EXCELLENCY, I AM THE FORMER GOVERNOR OF PUNJAB AND I WANT TO MEET YOU BECAUSE I WANT TO HAVE SOME HELP AND ASSISTANCE FROM YOU FOR MY ELECTION.' OF COURSE, THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR AVOIDED HIM. BUT HE HAD THE CHEEK TO ASK FOR FOREIGN SUPPORT. THEN HE WENT ABOUT VERY PROUDLY SAYING THAT HE WAS GETTING SUPPORT FROM THE CIA. HE WAS PROUD TO SAY THAT HE WAS A FOREIGN AGENT. DID YOU EVER COME ACROSS POLITICIANS WHO WOULD SAY THAT? IS THERE ANY SELF-RESPECTING POLITICIAN FROM ANY COUNTRY WHO WOULD OPENLY SAY THAT HE IS A CIA AGENT, EVEN IF HE WERE. WHEN YOU HAVE THAT TYPE OF POLITICIAN, WHAT WOULD YOU EXPECT?"

5. EMBASSY COMMENT: IF ASKED, EMBASSY INTENDS TO TELL QUESTIONERS THAT IT HAS NO COMMENT ON PRIME MINISTER'S REMARKS. IN UNLIKELY EVENT THAT STORY IS PICKED UP BY WIRE SERVICES AND CALLED TO DEPARTMENT'S ATTENTION, WE WOULD RECOMMEND THAT DEPARTMENT TAKE SAME LINE.

6. FACT OF THE MATTER IS THAT KHAR CONTACTED THE EMBASSY OVER A WEEKEND IN WHAT WE HAD REASON TO BELIEVE WAS EFFORT TO ARRANGE A CALL ON THE AMBASSADOR. AMBASSADOR WAS NOT IN WHEN FORMER GOVERNOR'S PHONE CALL CAME THROUGH. KHAR WAS TOLD THAT AMBASSADOR WOULD BE IN THE OFFICE WHEN EMBASSY RESUMED OPERATIONS FOLLOWING WEEK. AMBASSADOR, WHO HAD OF COURSE MET KHAR DURING HIS TIME IN OFFICE, WAS PREPARED TO TELL HIM THAT IT WOULD BE INAPPROPRIATE FOR THEM TO MEET DURING ELECTION CAMPAIGN THEN IN PROGRESS. KHAR, HOWEVER, NEVER DID CALL BACK. AWARE THAT KHAR'S APPROACH WOULD ALMOST CERTAINLY BECOME KNOWN, AMBASSADOR THOUGHT IT ADVISABLE TO TELL BHUTTO AT A SUBSEQUENT MEETING WHAT HAD HAPPENED. WE DID HEAR LATER FROM SEVERAL SOURCES THAT KHAR WAS ALLEGING THAT HE HAD BEEN IN TOUCH WITH THE AMBASSADOR AND THAT HE WAS SEEKING TO CONVEY THE IMPRESSION THAT

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 ISLAMA 01791 190858Z

HE HAD US BACKING IN HIS POLITICAL EFFORTS.
BYROADE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AMBASSADORS, BYELECTION, PRESS CONFERENCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: greeneet
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976ISLAMA01791
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760062-0028
From: ISLAMABAD
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760236/aaaabeul.tel
Line Count: 109
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: greeneet
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08 MAR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <08 MAR 2004 by GarlanWA>; APPROVED <13 OCT 2004 by greeneet>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BHUTTO MENTIONS AMBASSADOR IN PRESS INTERVIEW
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, US, PK, (BYROADE, HENRY A), (BHUTTO, ALI)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006